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Review of the operation and status of the Convention
Clearing mined areas

Summary of the 2014–2019 provisional plan of action for the implementation of the demining and decontamination component of the mine action strategy in Chad

Submitted by Chad

Introduction

1. Chad is one of the countries that is the most severely affected by contamination from mines and explosive remnants of war. This type of contamination exists in vast areas of the country's territory, where it poses an ongoing danger to the population, hampers social and economic development and the consolidation of the rule of law, and represents a national and regional security risk.

2. Since 2008, Chad has made remarkable progress in terms of stability and economic development. Against this background of peace, the country has also made significant headway in taking action against mines and explosive remnants of war.

3. In December 2013, the deadline for the implementation of article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction was extended until 1 January 2020. Chad has drawn up a plan of action for 2014–2019 in line with the new time frame.

Overview

4. Chad has reliable data on the number, exact geographic location and surface area of all the zones concerned, on the type of contamination present in those areas and on the land release methods employed in the areas in question. Data are available for all the regions but additional information needs to be collected on the Tibesti, Ennedi, Borkou and Moyen-Chari regions.

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5. In accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan, standards, policies and procedures for releasing land through technical and non-technical means that are acceptable to local communities have been developed; the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies has been provided with a copy of the national strategy, and the budgetary policies and legal framework for its implementation have been put in place; and efforts to open up mined areas and provide access to them have begun. Chad has reported on the problems that it has encountered because of the extent of the contamination, the difficulty of gaining access to contaminated areas, the location of contaminated areas in regions bordering countries in crisis situations, the logistical and operational constraints that exist, climatic conditions and related costs. Chad is adopting specific measures in line with the needs of the communities in the vicinity of mined areas and plans to integrate awareness-raising initiatives into data collection, survey, demining and decontamination, and victim assistance activities. The relevant national standards and operational coordination mechanisms provide for the use of appropriate means to keep the local communities abreast of the actions being taken and to ensure their participation in them.

6. As of the end of May 2014, the situation in terms of contamination was as follows: 787 hazardous areas in 9 regions of the country have been identified; 123 of those areas are contaminated with mines, while the remaining 664 are contaminated with explosive remnants of war. In the light of the way in which the contamination occurred and the available information, it is suspected that all the mined areas are contaminated with anti-personnel mines.

Operational plan

7. Currently, 113 of the areas identified as being mined have yet to be dealt with. The areas in question are located in 5 different regions of the country, as follows: 28 in Borkou, 7 in Ennedi, 1 in Moyen-Chari, 1 in Sila and 76 in Tibesti. Their total surface area amounts to 104,542,233 square metres. Technical and non-technical surveys will be carried out in heavily contaminated areas in the Tibesti, Ennedi and Borkou regions in the north of the country in order to supplement the above data.

8. The timetable for action in the mined areas is as follows:

- Borkou region: non-technical survey, technical survey and demining in 28 areas from June 2015 to June 2019;
- Ennedi region: non-technical survey, technical survey and demining in 7 areas from January 2015 to April 2019;
- Moyen-Chari region: non-technical survey, technical survey and demining in 1 area from May to December 2015;
- Sila region: non-technical survey, technical survey and demining in 1 area from September 2015 to February 2016;
- Tibesti region: non-technical survey, technical survey and demining in 76 areas from November 2014 to November 2019.

9. Every effort will be made to deploy mixed teams with non-technical survey, technical survey and demining capacities. The detailed operations plan and the choice of methods to be used in each region and area will be determined in cooperation with the operators concerned. High impact areas contaminated with anti-personnel mines will be given priority.

10. Implementation of the operational plan will involve the mobilization of the necessary resources to set up and deploy operational units in all the regions concerned starting in 2014. An operator will also be recruited in 2014 under the Demining Support Project for Chad (PADEMIN), which is funded by the European Union. No operators have yet been deployed in Chad.

11. Given the size of the areas in question and the logistical constraints and extreme weather conditions prevailing in the northern part of the country, operations are scheduled to be carried out over a period of 60 months.

12. At the time of writing, Chad does not have precise information on the number, surface area or exact location of the suspected mined areas in the as-yet unsurveyed regions. Consequently, no detailed plans can be drawn up for those areas. Plans will therefore be reviewed and adjusted on the basis of the progress made and the results of the non-technical and technical surveys.

Outlook

13. In line with its commitments, the Government of Chad intends to continue to make every reasonable effort to identify confirmed hazardous areas and those areas where the presence of mines and explosive remnants of war can be ruled out. Chad intends to systematize monitoring, quality assurance and land release procedures in the country, as well as the data recording component of the information management system.

14. The Government of Chad is well aware of the link between security and development at the national and regional levels and intends to mobilize all stakeholders in the effort to demine areas that represent a major threat to property and people in border areas, particularly in the Sahelian zone.

15. Implementation of the plan of action for 2014–2019 is contingent upon the mobilization of resources for the procurement of materials and equipment, refresher training and the recruitment of technical staff, and international and national advisory services to support the coordination, implementation and quality control of demining operations.

Budget and resources

16. Demining operations are conducted under the Priority Action Plan of the National Development Plan because they help to remove obstacles to the development of infrastructure and services and to the consolidation of the rule of law in contaminated areas.

17. The budget for demining and decontamination operations for 2014–2019 stands at US$ 60.97 million, or an annual average of some US$ 10 million.

18. The budget is allocated as follows: US$ 39.7 million for operating costs; US$ 4.6 million for the procurement of materials and equipment; and US$ 16.6 million for operating costs and wages for the National Demining Centre. The National Demining Centre's annual State-allocated budget stands at US$ 2.7 million. The average annual amount of funding that is needed therefore comes to US$ 7.3 million.

19. The Government of Chad intends to establish resource-mobilization mechanisms with the help of the ministries responsible for the sectors affected by contamination from mines and explosive remnants of war – in particular, the infrastructure, transport, tourism, agricultural and rural development sectors. It also plans to set up a multi-donor partnership framework.

20. In 2014, the PADEMIN project, which has been launched by the European Union and has a total of €5,445,000 in funding (€3,500,000 of which is allocated for land release and demining operations), will make it possible to resume operations in the north of the country. To date, no other funding for the implementation of the plan of action for 2014–2019 has been forthcoming.

Mobilization

21. Mindful of the lessons of the past and aware of the difficulties encountered by the national agency in charge of the clearance of mines and explosive remnants of war, Chad looks forward to the resumption of technical, institutional, organizational and operational assistance and to support for the formation of a cooperative network encompassing its various technical and financial partners. It is hoped that this network will diversify the country's funding sources and help to mobilize the human, technical and financial resources required in order to achieve the country's goals.

22. The Government of Chad wishes to thank all those who have helped the country to move closer to its goal of ridding itself of mines and explosive remnants of war and invites its technical and financial partners, in particular the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the plan of action for 2014–2019.